



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

For immediate release
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MEDIA ADVISORY

“Lost Boy” of Sudan available for interviews during premiere of refugee film

Richmond, VA — Maker Abraham Jok, a former “Lost Boy” of Sudan, will be available for interviews before and after the premiere of “God Grew Tired of Us.” Jok fled the suffering and violence in his homeland before settling in Richmond seven years ago when he was only 17.

Jok will be one of hundreds of people attending a free screening of this award-winning documentary to commemorate Virginia Refugee Day and World Refugee Day at the [Library of Virginia](#), 800 East Broad Street, on June 20, 2007. A reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the film premiering at 6:30. “God Grew Tired of Us” has received numerous awards, including two from the Sundance Film Festival. The documentary explores the journey of three of the “Lost Boys” of Sudan, who leave their war-torn homeland, triumph over incredible adversities and move to America to begin new lives.

Jok and the film both bring attention to the plight of refugees. Refugees are different than immigrants, as the former are placed here by U.S. authorities in response to war, political strife and religious persecution in their home countries. Virginia has become home to thousands of refugees, who have entered the country legally seeking a new life of freedom and opportunity.

For tickets or more information, go to www.dss.virginia.gov.

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This free screening of “God Grew Tired of Us” is presented by the Office of Newcomer Services of the Virginia Department of Social Services. For interviews, additional story ideas or information on refugee resettlement in Virginia, contact Carla Harris, VDSS, (804) 726-7107 or carla.harris@dss.virginia.gov.